

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2021 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 14(JUD)
Fiscal Note Number:	3
(S) Publish Date:	3/5/2021

Identifier: SB14-JUD-AJC-03-1-2021  
Title: SELECTION AND REVIEW OF JUDGES  
Sponsor: SHOWER  
Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee

Department: Judiciary  
Appropriation: Judicial Council  
Allocation: Judicial Council  
OMB Component Number: 771

## Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2022 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2022 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

## Change in Revenues

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2021) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2022) cost:** 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

**Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account?** No  
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

## ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

## Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

This fiscal note was zeroed out by the Senate Judiciary committee with the intent that the workload be absorbed.

Prepared By: Senator Reinbold  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Phone: (907)465-3822  
Date: 03/01/2021

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Analysis

The previous fiscal note submitted by the Judicial Council expressed concerns that additional work would have to be done for the following reasons:

1. The bill adds magistrates to their work load. Previously, magistrates were appointed by the courts with no screening by the Judicial Council;
2. The bill allows the Governor to reject the first round and appoint a second round; and
3. The bill adds additional candidates to the mix when the Judicial Council reviews candidates for the bench.

The committee felt that adding six magistrates a year to the workload could be easily absorbed into their existing work load. Magistrates have a much lower bar to clear with vetting, as they generally do much lower level cases and a magistrate does not have to be a lawyer. Reviewing a half dozen extra magistrates a year with this low level a position should not be a difficult or time consuming task.

In fact, the Judicial Council's fiscal note reflected that it anticipates it can absorb the additional work with existing staff. The functions of outreach for additional Governor's candidates can be achieved through coordinating outreach timing so they can all be done in one outreach. The Council did not detail the expenses of investigative costs and background checks. The committee felt that requiring two of the judges being considered nominees of the Governor should not increase the work load, as it is discretionary for the Council to nominate additional judges.